

be used for any purpose with a restriction which would prohibit drilling, mining, or any other action that would breach the caverns.

If the alternative to continue storing high-level waste in tanks is chosen, approximately 50 acres of land will have to be committed every 50 to 100 years to build new tanks to replace the existing tanks. Presumably, however, when the tanks are emptied every 50 to 100 years, they could be decontaminated and dismantled so the site could be used for the next generation of tanks; if this can be accomplished, additional land will not have to be committed for waste tanks.

TABLE VII-1

Irreversible and Irretrievable Commitment of Resources^a

	<i>Continue Tank Farm Storage</i>	<i>Glass Form to a Federal Repository</i>			<i>Liquid to Bedrock</i>
		<i>Offsite Geological</i>	<i>Onsite Surface</i>	<i>Onsite Geological</i>	
Land, acres	80 ^b	100 ^c	125	100 ^d	10 ^d
Concrete, cubic yards × 10 ³	375 ^e	100	125	125	25
Carbon steel, tons × 10 ³	70	20	25	25	5
Stainless steel, tons × 10 ³	5	10	10	10	1
Electricity, MW-hr × 10 ³	350 ^e	900	900	900	40
Coal, tons × 10 ³	150 ^e	600	600	600	10
Cost, billions of 1980 dollars	0.510	3.60	3.75	3.61	0.755

a. Estimates based on experience with similar facilities; assumes 10 years of glass-forming operations.

b. Assumes old tanks are dismantled after they are emptied and new tanks are built in same area.

c. Glass-forming plant only; excludes land for offsite Federal repository.

d. Excludes surface restriction prohibiting drilling or mining.

e. Assumes replacing tanks five times in the first 300 years and maintaining surveillance for 300 years.